

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Ahmed of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for her time and consideration in participating in an interview on June 3, 2004. The Interview Summary accurately reflects the substance of the interview.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 28-32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims (Official Action at page 7).

By the above amendments, claim 19 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 28 has been amended to be in independent form by incorporating the features of claim 19 therein. Claims 20-22 and 26 have been amended to depend from claim 28.

In the Official Action, claims 19-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,074,741 (*Murata et al*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,853,801 (*Suga et al*). Claims 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over International Publication No. WO 97/30021 (*Yoshida et al*) in view of *Suga et al*. Claims 22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,033,743 (*Suzuki et al*) in view of *Suga et al*.

Without addressing the propriety of the above rejections, Applicants note that such rejections are moot in light of the above amendments in which claim 19 has been canceled, claim 28 has been amended to be in independent form, and claims 20-22 and 26 have been amended to depend from claim 28. It is noted that claims 23-25 and 27 indirectly depend

from claim 28. As discussed above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 28-32 contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the above §103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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